

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**No claim amendments are proposed in this response.** All claims currently pending in the application are included below for clarity.

1           1.       (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2       a mounting portion including a first communication path to route at least one signal line  
3           from a first card connector on a circuit board to a first card connector on the  
4           mounting portion; and  
5       a routing portion including a communication path, the communication path of the routing  
6           portion to route at least one signal line from a second card connector on the circuit  
7           board to the mounting portion, a second communication path of the mounting  
8           portion to route the at least one signal line of the second card connector on the  
9           circuit board to a second card connector on the mounting portion.

1           2.       The apparatus of claim 1, the mounting portion and the routing portion  
2       comprising a single integrated component.

1           3.       (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one  
2       other routing portion including a communication path to route at least one signal line  
3           from a third card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a third  
4           communication path of the mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of the  
5           third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector on the mounting  
6           portion.

1           4.       The apparatus of claim 3, the routing portion and the at least one other  
2       routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           5.       (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising:  
2       a first riser for coupling with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
3       a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser for coupling with the mounting  
4       portion.

1           6.     The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser and the second riser comprising a  
2     single part.

1           7.     The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser oriented substantially transverse to  
2     the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           8.     The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

1           9.     (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2     a circuit board;  
3     a processor disposed on the circuit board;  
4     a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;  
5     a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
6         one signal line;  
7     a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at  
8         least one signal line;  
9     a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
10         portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
11         of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
12         on the mounting portion; and  
13     a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
14         portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
15         the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
16         communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
17         of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
18         disposed on the mounting portion.

1           10.    The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a peripheral card secured in  
2     one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card connector on  
3     the mounting portion.

1        11.    The apparatus of claim 10, the mounting portion to orient the peripheral  
2 card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1        12.    The apparatus of claim 9, each of the at least one signal line of the first  
2 card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second card  
3 connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

1        13.    The apparatus of claim 9, the mounting portion and the routing portion  
2 comprising a single integrated component.

1        14.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
3 one signal line; and  
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1        15.    The apparatus of claim 14, the routing portion and the at least one other  
2 routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1        16.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising:  
2 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
3 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
4 portion.

1        17.    The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser and the second riser comprising a  
2 single part.

1           18.    The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser oriented substantially transverse  
2 to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           19.    The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

1           20.    The apparatus of claim 9, the first card connector on the circuit board  
2 separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one intervening  
3 card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           21.    (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 a chassis;  
3 a circuit board disposed in the chassis;  
4 a processor disposed on the circuit board;  
5 a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;  
6 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
7 one signal line;  
8 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at  
9 least one signal line;  
10 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
11 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
12 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
13 on the mounting portion; and  
14 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
15 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
16 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
17 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
18 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
19 disposed on the mounting portion.

1           22.    The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a peripheral card secured in  
2 one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card connector on  
3 the mounting portion.

1           23.    The apparatus of claim 22, the mounting portion to orient the peripheral  
2 card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           24.    The apparatus of claim 21, each of the at least one signal line of the first  
2 card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second card  
3 connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

1           25.    The apparatus of claim 21, the mounting portion and the routing portion  
2 comprising a single integrated component.

1           26.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
3 one signal line; and  
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1           27.    The apparatus of claim 26, the routing portion and the at least one other  
2 routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           28.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising:  
2    a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
3    a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
4    portion.

1           29.    The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser and the second riser comprising a  
2    single part.

1           30.    The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser oriented substantially transverse  
2    to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           31.    The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

1           32.    The apparatus of claim 21, the first card connector on the circuit board  
2    separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one intervening  
3    card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           33.    (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2    first routing means including a first communication means for routing at least one signal  
3    line from a first card connector on a circuit board to a first card connector  
4    disposed on the first routing means; and  
5    second routing means including a communication means, the communication means of  
6    the second routing means for routing at least one signal line from a second card  
7    connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a second communication  
8    means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the second  
9    card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector disposed on the  
10   first routing means.

1           34.     (Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a third routing  
2 means including a communication means for routing at least one signal line from a third  
3 card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a third communication  
4 means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the third card  
5 connector on the circuit board to a third card connector disposed on the first routing  
6 means.

1           35.     (Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, each of the first and second  
2 communication means of the first routing means and the communication means of the  
3 second routing means to route one of an electrical signal and an optical signal.

1           36.     (Amended) A method comprising:  
2 securing a mounting structure to a first card connector on a circuit board;  
3 securing a routing structure to a second card connector on the circuit board;  
4 routing at least one signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board through a  
5 first communication path of the mounting structure to a first card connector on the  
6 mounting structure;  
7 routing at least one signal line from the second card connector on the circuit board  
8 through a communication path of the routing structure to the mounting structure;  
9 and  
10 routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board second card connector through a  
11 second communication path of the mounting structure to a second card connector  
12 on the mounting structure.

1           37.     (Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
2     securing a second routing structure in a third card connector on the circuit board;  
3     routing at least one signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board through  
4         a communication path of the second routing structure to the mounting structure;  
5         and  
6     routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board third card connector through a third  
7         communication path of the mounting structure to a third card connector on the  
8         mounting structure.

1           38.     The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
2     routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the first card connector on the circuit  
3         board to the first card connector on the mounting structure; and  
4     routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the second card connector on the  
5         circuit board to the second card connector on the mounting structure.

1           39.     The method of claim 36, further comprising securing a peripheral card in  
2     one of the first card connector on the mounting structure and the second card connector  
3     on the mounting structure.

1           40.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           41.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an optical path.

1           42.     The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an electrically conductive path.



1           43.     The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second  
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3 portion comprises an optical path.

1           44.     The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the first and second  
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3 portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           45.     The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the first and second  
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3 portion comprises an optical path.

1           46.     An apparatus comprising:  
2 a circuit board;  
3 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line  
4 extending therefrom;  
5 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line  
6 extending therefrom;  
7 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
8 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
9 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
10 on the mounting portion; and  
11 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
12 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
13 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
14 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
15 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
16 disposed on the mounting portion.

1           47.     The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a peripheral card secured in  
2 one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card connector on  
3 the mounting portion.

1           48.     The apparatus of claim 47, the mounting portion to orient the peripheral  
2 card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           49.     The apparatus of claim 46, the mounting portion and the routing portion  
2 comprising a single integrated component.

1           50.     The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:  
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line  
3 extending therefrom; and  
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1           51.     The apparatus of claim 50, the routing portion and the at least one other  
2 routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           52.     The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion comprising:  
2 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
3 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
4 portion.

1           53.     The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser and the second riser comprising a  
2 single part.

1           54.    The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser oriented substantially transverse  
2 to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           55.    The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

1           56.    The apparatus of claim 46, the first card connector on the circuit board  
2 separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one intervening  
3 card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           57.    The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the first and second  
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3 portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           58.    The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the first and second  
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3 portion comprises an optical path.